

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 24, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-26 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. New claims 27-30 are added. No new matter is added. Thus, claims 1-30 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-26 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended to overcome certain objections and to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-26 are amended to comply with Section 112, second paragraph, and to resolve any objections. Applicants submit that claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance, as are new claims 27-30. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the finding of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 6, 12, 23, 25 and 26 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants amend claims 1, 6, 12, 23, 25 and 26 to resolve the informalities and to comply with accepted U.S. patent practice. Thus, the objections are rendered moot.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants amend claims 1-26 to place claims 1-26 into better form

according to U.S. patent practice and to comply with the requirements of Section 112. Applicants respectfully request that the indefiniteness rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants also submit that claims 1-26 are entitled to their full range of equivalents. Although the claims were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, amendments were made to claims 1-26 to improve clarity and were not made to limit the subject matter of claims 1-26. Thus, claims 1-26 are entitled to their full range of equivalents.

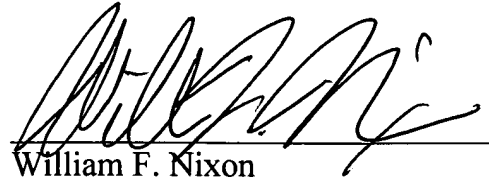
Further, new claims 27-30 are added. Applicants submit that new claims 27-30 are allowable at least for the reasons given above, and by their dependence on claims 1, 12, 23 and 25, respectively.

It is submitted that each of claims 1-30 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by any prior art, as stated in the Office Action, and that claims 1-30 comply with accepted U.S. patent practice. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-30 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William F. Nixon', is written over a horizontal line.

William F. Nixon
Registration No. 44,262

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

WFN:cct

Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal